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Claims:

1. A method of operating a peripheral device enabled to communicate using a small computer system interface protocol, said method comprising:

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receiving a SCSI command write/read signal;

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in response to receipt of said received SCSI command write/read signal and said received SCSI inquiry signal, causing said peripheral device to delay initiating a response to the SCSI inquiry signal for a predetermined time period.

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2. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

setting a delay timer and entering a delay mode for delaying said peripheral device initiating a response to said SCSI inquiry signal said delay mode set to extend for said pre-determined time period.

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3. The method as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising:

upon expiry of said pre-determined time period, responding to said SCSI command write/read signal by performing an arbitrary host selection procedure and performing a data transfer procedure.

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4. A tape data storage device comprising:

a tape drive mechanism for accepting a removable tape data storage media for storage of data;

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at least one buffer memory for temporarily storing data to be read to said tape data storage media and to be written from said tape data storage media;

a small computer system interface driver;

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a controller device for controlling said buffer memory, said tape drive mechanism and said small computer system interface driver;

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wherein said tape data storage device operates to:

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receive a SCSI command write/read signal;

receive a SCSI inquiry signal;

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in response to receipt of said received SCSI command write/read signal and said received SCSI inquiry signal, cause said peripheral device to delay initiating a response to the SCSI inquiry signal for a predetermined time period.

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5. The tape data storage device as claimed in claim 4, further operating to:

set a timer and enter a delay mode, said delay mode which delays said data storage device initiating a response to said SCSI inquiry signal set to extend for a pre-determined time period.

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6. The tape data storage device as claimed in claim 4, further operable to:

upon expiry of said pre-determined delay time period, respond to said SCSI command write/read signal by performing an arbitrary host selection procedure and performing a data transfer procedure.

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7. A driver for operating a small computer system interface enabled peripheral device enabled to communicate with at least one other SCSI enabled device according to the SCSI protocol, said driver comprising:

5 means for receiving a SCSI command write/read signal;

means for receiving a SCSI inquiry signal; and

a delay timer;

10 wherein in response to receipt of said received SCSI command write/read signal and said received SCSI inquiry signal, said driver causes said peripheral device to delay initiating a response to the SCSI inquiry signal for a predetermined time period.

15 8. The driver as claimed in claim 7, wherein said driver operates to set a delay timer and enter a delay mode, said delay mode set to extend for said predetermined time period.

20 9. The driver as claimed in Claim 7, wherein when in said delay mode, said driver delays sending a response to said SCSI inquiry signal.

10. The driver as claimed in Claim 7 which operates such that:

25 upon expiry of said pre-determined delay time period, said driver responds to said SCSI command write/read signal by performing an arbitrary host selection procedure and performing a data transfer procedure.

30 11. A system of computer entities, communicating via a small computer system interface, said system comprising:

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at least one host computer entity;

at least one target computer entity;

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said system operating such that:

arbitration is initiated by the target entity, to select the host computer and commencement of data transfer between the host computer and target entity can 10 occur during a bus free period comprising the inquiry period of an inquiry initiated by said host computer to said target entity.

12. Program data comprising program instructions for causing a processor to operate a small computer system interface (SCSI) protocol driver, 15 said driver operating to:

receive a SCSI command write/read signal;

receive an SCSI enquiry signal;

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in response to receipt of said received SCSI command write/read signal and said received SCSI inquiry signal, set a delay timer to extend for a pre-determined time period; and

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on expiry of said time period, respond to said SCSI enquiry.

13. A driver for operating a small computer system interface enabled peripheral device enabled to communicate with at least one other SCSI enabled device according to the SCSI protocol, said driver operable to:

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receive SCSI command write/read signal;

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receive a SCSI inquiry signal; and

a delay timer;

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wherein in response to receipt of said received SCSI command write/read signal and said received SCSI inquiry signal, said driver operates to cause said peripheral device to delay initiating a response to said SCSI inquiry signal for a predetermined time period.

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